

MEMORANDUM FOR: PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

FROM: POCG SPECIAL WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION - The Development of a Plan under which the US will derive the Maximum Advantage from Stalin's Death - Report of Working Group

REFERENCE:

- a. memo of 20 Jan 1951
- b. memo for Mr. Joyce of 23 Mar 1951
- c. Mr. Phillips' paper on "Succession" of 21 May 1951
- d. Project TROY, Annex 15

1. The referenced papers develop to a considerable extent the possibilities offered by Stalin's death for the attainment of major US objectives vis-a-vis the USSR. They also describe the problems and difficulties which must be overcome before any plan can be developed to take full advantage of that event.

2. Having agreed that the gathering of information must be the first step, the working group has taken ~~the following~~ the following action:

a. A request has been made for a National Estimate on Soviet vulnerabilities to various forms of political and psychological action directed toward the weakening or eventual overthrow of the regime. The date of 31 July 1951 has been established as the target for the completion of the estimate.

b. OIR has agreed that prior to the completion of the estimate it will undertake certain special studies with respect to subjects of obvious relevance and importance to CANCELLATION. We understand that a contract for the first of these, a study of Soviet leadership, has been entered into with Harvard University.

c. The working group understands that there is a possibility that CIA may undertake a special study, which focused directly upon the problem of succession, would attempt to gather together the best judgments of those who have intimate knowledge of the Soviet system as to the characteristics of the individuals at its apex and of the power mechanisms under their control.

Cancellation

3. The working group feels that the estimate and studies referred to in a. and b. will provide useful background information but may be too general for the particular purposes of CANCELLATION. This group feels, therefore, that it is essential that the special study referred to in c. (and any other studies determined to be necessary by PSB) ~~be~~ shall be made to provide the information upon which the plan CANCELLATION can best be developed.

4. The success of any plan or plans will depend to a large extent upon the intelligence which can be collected on a continuing basis. Accordingly, the group believes that the attached statement of initial intelligence requirements (Tab "A") should be furnished the collection agencies with the request that they be given a high priority. Revisions in this list can later be made on the basis of the various studies referred to above.

5. ~~Recommendation~~ Since it is entirely possible that Stalin will die prior to the development of operational plans, it is essential that this government have at least a contingency overt propaganda position based on existing information. Tab "B" sets forth the position recommended by Mr. Phillips in the paper referred to above. The group feels that this position should be approved as an interim position.

6. Defense and State members of the working group have developed a plan (Tab "C") for the exploitation of Stalin's death. This paper does not have the concurrence of the CIA member who, nevertheless, feels that it contains useful suggestions and should be referred to the PSB for information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

7. It is recommended that:

a. Tab "A", Initial Intelligence Requirements, be furnished the collection agencies as high priority requirements and that the same be furnished PSB for consideration and possible modification at a later time.

b. POCC inform PSB of the studies which are underway for the purpose of developing the information needed for further planning.

c. Tab "B" be approved as an interim overt propaganda position of the US for the contingency of Stalin's death prior to the development of the initial plan.

d. The State and Defense members of the working group recommend that Tab "C" be approved by the POCC and forwarded to PSB for its approval and action. The CIA member recommends that Tab "C" be noted by POCC and forwarded to PSB as an unofficial paper for its information.